

had small, smaller, smallest. We're not going to define it because we're going to let the health care administrator do it. This 1,017 pages is just a start.

LISTEN TO THE HEALTH CARE EXPERTS

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my constituents aren't the only ones concerned about the government takeover of health care.

Yesterday, health care leaders of Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world, gathered at Ben Taub Hospital. They represent indigent public hospitals, nonprofits, private systems, and some of our cutting-edge research institutions. These nationally renowned leaders had three messages for lawmakers in Congress:

One, they have no idea what is in this massive health care bill nor how it affects the patients they treat. They've had virtually no input in health care reform, and it's too important to rush through the House in the next few days.

Dr. Larry Kaiser, a surgeon and the president of the University of Texas Health Science Center, said, "I liken it to taking out a tumor. There's a time when there's an urge to get it done quickly, but that's when mistakes can be made. That's the time to take it slowly and carefully."

Why aren't we listening to these health care experts? Now is not the time to rush this bill through.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, troubled about the Democrats' proposed government takeover of our health care system. The Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, has confirmed that this legislation will not reduce costs but will, rather, drive costs even higher for American families. They confirmed this weekend that a mandate on business would tend to reduce the hiring of workers at or near the minimum wage. They also pointed out that employers would be expected to pass the costs of fees on to workers in the form of lower wages.

This government takeover will burden our economy, and it will stifle economic growth. Instead of a takeover, Congress should act on free market and Tax Code health care reforms to make our system better. The President and his majority in Congress failed to produce jobs with the so-called "stimulus." In fact, things have only gotten worse. Why should we trust them with the government takeover of health care?

BIPARTISANSHIP IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, so many Members have come up to talk about this plan, the plan that, in fact, cannot get even all of the Democrats to vote for it, and it doesn't have so much as one Republican voting for it. Hopefully, the American people understand Republicans believe there is a problem. We know, in fact, there are uninsured and underinsured. There are Americans who are concerned about losing their insurance, and of course, we all know that the Federal program, such as Medicare, is fraught with waste, fraud and abuse.

What we don't hear is that we can attack the problems on a bipartisan basis. Lower the cost of health care by eliminating defensive medicine, by lowering the threat against every doctor, if he or she doesn't simply do every possible test, even if it's simply running up the tab.

We can, in fact, work on a bipartisan basis on health care. The first thing we have to do is agree to do it piece by piece and to attack those things which either cause people to be uninsured or, in fact, cause people not to be able to afford their insurance.

I urge you to think about that, Mr. Speaker.

MAINTAIN THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of all Americans have health insurance, the majority of whom like their plans. The Democrat bill, as drawn out, does a couple of things.

First of all, it doesn't keep the President's promise. The President promises that, if you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it, but as stated earlier on pages 16 and 17 of the bill, you're not going to be able to do that.

The other thing is the plan was to lower the cost curb, but the CBO testified that the costs for both plans go up. The cost for the private insurance plan goes up. The cost for the public option goes up. A public option will undercut private insurance, driving people into a public plan.

Now, in countries that have one public insurance plan, the only way they control costs is by rationing care. If you don't trust me, just ask the Canadians, the Brits, the folks in New Zealand, and in Australia where you have a bureaucrat deciding whether you get the care you need or not. This is not the type of plan we want. We want to maintain the doctor-patient relationship.

HEALTH CARE REFORM THAT EMPOWER THE AMERICAN CITIZEN

(Mr. PLATTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, recently, I was asked during a radio interview if I thought legislation for health care reform would pass the House sometime this year. My answer was, "I hope so." All of us want more affordable, better, more accessible health care for our citizens. The question is: How do we achieve this very important goal?

Unfortunately, the plan embodied by this diagram is not the way to do that. This plan will cost millions of jobs. It will cut almost a half trillion dollars out of Medicare, hurting seniors. It will raise taxes on small businesses, making it harder to provide health insurance. As the CBO has told us, when fully implemented, it will raise the cost of health care by over \$200 billion. That's more than \$2 trillion in 10 years.

Unfortunately, the House leadership who are promoting this plan and those who are supporting it have forgotten the physician's principle of "first do no harm." This plan will do great harm to health care for each and every American citizen. We must defeat this plan, and we must enact legislation that will truly be about empowering the American citizen, and that will be about what is best for their health care.

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PRICELESS

(Mr. NUNES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to draw your attention to the board here. Mr. Speaker, there are 435 Members of the House of Representatives. There are 256 Democrats in the House of Representatives. It takes 218 votes to pass the government takeover of health care. Mr. Speaker, it's priceless that the Democrats can't come up with 218 votes to pass the government takeover of health care.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, you know, with all of the talk of health care reform over the last several weeks, we haven't heard anything from the majority with regard to medical malpractice reform. This is kind of interesting because if any of you actually walk into a doctor's office across the country and ask them what's the one thing that could really help with health care in this country with costs and care and coverage, they would say medical malpractice reform.

Today across this country, doctors do not look at patients as patients. They look at them as future lawsuits. If we